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SUPPLEMENT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Increase in Tension Between Czechs and Slovaks

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1. The tension in Czech-Slovak relations was aggravated in the latter part of May almost to the point of crisis by the dismissal of Daxner, Chief Justice of the Slovak National Court who sentenced Tiso. The Slovak and Czech Communists reacted with a great pressure campaign which resulted in a summons to the Slovak Democratic Party to come to Prague and defend itself before the National Front. They were presented with a 54 page document containing charges, newspaper clippings and excerpts from speeches all purporting to prove that the Slovak Democratic Party is endeavoring to undermine the Czechoslovak state. The document further charged, that the Slovak Democratic Party is a refuge for former Hlinka followers; that it has maintained contact with war criminal Durcansky in Italy; manipulated the Slovak-American press to present a biased picture; and pursued a consistently anti-Russian policy.
2. The Slovak Democrats were to send a seven man delegation to the Prague meeting, scheduled for June 11. The Slovak Democrat leaders tried to line up support among the moderate parties, and Ministers Ripka, Stransky, and Prochazka, recognizing that a Communist attempt to dissolve the Slovak Democratic Party would be the first step in the annihilation of democracy in Czechoslovakia, were to support the Slovak Democrats. The feeling of tension was heightened by the recent developments in Hungary.
3. The Slovak Democrats have taken the position in the Daxner affair, that should he be retained as Chief Justice, the Party would go into opposition. It was felt that the Communists would compromise, but at a high price, such as the abolition of the Slovak National Council, and its autonomous portfolios.

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